



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

OCT 24 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
100 Lincoln Way East, Suite B
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 17201

Dear Representative Shuster:

I am writing in response to your letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of your constituent, (b) (6)(b) (6) regarding the impacts from potential water pollutants and air contamination from a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in Fulton County, Pennsylvania.

If (b) (6) has specific concerns about contracting Methlycillin-Resistant Staphlycocus Aureus, better known as MRSA, she should contact her health care provider or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 877-724-3258.

With regard to CAFOs, they are regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program if they discharge to waters of the United States. EPA has authorized the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to implement the NPDES regulations. In March 2013, PADEP issued a CAFO General Permit (CGP) that allows for the citing of CAFOs, as long as a set of specific requirements are followed that are intended to protect human health and the environment.

Swine and hog operations are one of the animal types required to obtain permit coverage under the CGP. In Pennsylvania, a swine operation with greater than 2,500 animals each weighing 55 pounds or more is considered a CAFO. Once permit coverage is obtained, the CAFO must adhere to the permit requirements and implement a nutrient management plan (NMP). In addition, all CAFOs are required to monitor the amount of manure generated and applied on cropland.

EPA would recommend that any questions or concerns regarding CAFOs in Fulton County, or throughout Pennsylvania, be directed to Mr. Ryan Kostival, Chief of PADEP's Nutrient Management Section at 717-772-5658. Mr. Kostival and PADEP are best positioned to provide you and your constituents with the most relevant information about CAFOs in Pennsylvania, and the impact they have on local water and air quality.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Mrs. Kinshasa Brown-Perry, EPA's Pennsylvania Liaison, at 215-814-5404.

Sincerely,



Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator

cc: Ryan Kostival, PADEP

